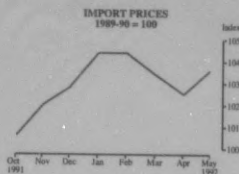


Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 30 July 1992

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Import prices rise in May

The Import Price Index rose by 1.1 per cent in May 1992 resulting in an increase of 1.7 per cent from May 1991 to May 1992.

The main contributors to the price rise during May were machinery and transport equipment, mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials, and miscellaneous chemical materials and products.

The value of the Australian dollar fell against the major trading currencies during May, contributing to the overall rise in the index.

IMPORT PRICES, MAY 1992

Selected items	Percentage change from previous month
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	3.8
Animal and vegetable oils	3.5
Chemical products	1.3
Food and live animals	1.2
Machinery and transport equipment	1.0
Crude materials	0.9
All items	1.1

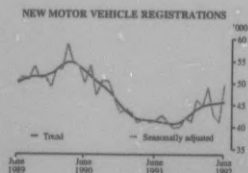
For further information, order the publication *Import Price Index, Australia* (6414.0), or contact Carole Duthie on (06) 252 5348.

New motor vehicle registrations rise sharply

Seasonally adjusted new vehicle registrations jumped by 20.6 per cent in June 1992, more than wiping out the falls in the previous two months.

As a result the trend estimate of registrations continued its modest rise with an increase of 0.6 per cent in the month.

Registrations of passenger and 'other' vehicles each rose sharply in both seasonally adjusted and original (unadjusted) terms.



In original terms, total new motor vehicle registrations rose by 25.8 per cent from 42,307 vehicles in May to 53,209 in June, the highest monthly total since October 1990. All States showed increases for total registrations for June, with New South Wales showing the greatest increase of 48 per cent from 15,464 vehicles in May to 22,886. However, it should be noted that the introduction of the new DRIVES registration processing system in New South Wales during the month is thought to have resulted in an increase in the number of records processed.

For further information, order the publication *Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia* (9301.0), or contact Kevin Yeadon on (06) 252 6255.

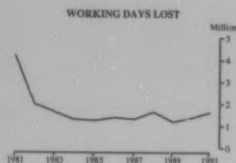
Industrial disputes at 30-year low

The number of industrial disputes reported in 1991 was the lowest for 30 years. In the twelve months to December, 1,058 disputes were reported in progress which is the lowest recorded for a calendar year since 1961.

The number of working days lost due to industrial disputes increased by 17 per cent during 1991 to 1,610,500. Of these, 520,000 (or 32%) were the result of one big strike — the general strike in New South Wales in October.

New South Wales recorded 463 disputes in progress, the lowest number for that State since 1940.

Nationally, the number of working days lost per thousand employees was 265 in 1991. Victoria and Tasmania recorded a substantial decrease in this category to the lowest levels for these States since the series commenced in 1967.



INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991
Number of disputes (No.)	2,915	1,787	1,895	1,517	1,402	1,058
Employees involved ('000)	1,247.2	470.2	570.5	608.8	709.8	1,181.5
Working days lost ('000)	4,189.3	1,641.4	1,256.2	1,311.9	1,202.4	1,610.5
Working days lost per 1,000 employees (No.)	797	249	228	223	190	265

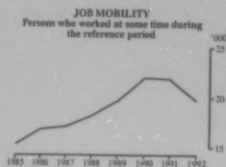
In terms of industries, coal mining recorded the greatest loss of working days per thousand employees (4,507). Coal mining employees in New South Wales recorded a reduction from 6,691 working days lost per thousand employees in 1990 to 6,634.

The major cause of industrial disputes that ended in 1991 was managerial policy (including award restructuring), which accounted for 54 per cent of working days lost.

Disputes over wages continued to decline and were responsible for only 2 per cent of working days lost in 1991 compared with 40 per cent in 1986.

The majority of disputes (57%) lasted one day or less. There has been a continued decline in the working days lost through industrial disputes lasting five days or more. In 1991 disputes lasting five days or more accounted for 9 per cent of working days lost compared with 56 per cent in 1986.

In 1991, 639 disputes (or 61% of all disputes) were settled by resumption without negotiation.



Fewer people changing jobs

The trend towards greater job mobility in the Australian labour force, halted in the year ending February 1991, was reversed in the year ending February 1992.

The proportion of workers who were job mobile — that is, they changed their employer/business or locality over a one year period — increased from 14 per cent in the year ending February 1984 to 22 per cent in the years ending February 1990 and 1991. However during the year ending February 1992, the number of job mobile workers fell to 20 per cent of persons who worked at some time during the year.

Of these 1,690,300 job mobile persons, 84 per cent changed their employer/business, including 2 per cent who changed their job more than once, involving both a change of employer/business, and a change of locality. The other 16 per cent changed locality but not employer/business.

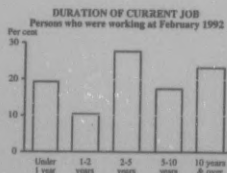
Some other findings from the Labour Mobility survey include:

- ☐ Job mobility ratios were similar for males and females (19% and 20% respectively).
- ☐ Job mobility was greatest (28%) for persons aged 20 to 24 years and least (9%) for those aged 55 to 69.
- ☐ Married persons were less job mobile than those who were not married (18% compared with 23%).

There were 8,564,100 persons aged 15 to 69 who worked at some time during the year ending February 1992. Of these people, 1,832,300, or 21 per cent, ceased a job during the year.

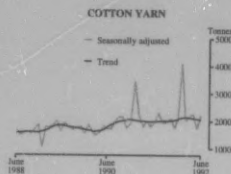
**PERSONS WHO CEASED A JOB
DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1992**
Thousands

Reason for ceasing last job	Males	Females	Persons
Job leaver (voluntary)	507.6	514.1	1,021.7
Job loser (involuntary)	488.9	321.6	810.5
Retrenched	359.0	188.5	547.5
Other reasons including own ill health or injury	129.9	133.2	263.1
Total	996.7	835.7	1,832.3



Of the people who ceased a job during the year, 56 per cent were job leavers, while 44 per cent were job losers. The majority (68%) of job losers were retrenched.

The proportion of those persons working at the time of the survey who had worked in their current job for less than one year, had fallen from 28 per cent in 1989 to 20 per cent in 1992. Over the same period, the proportion of persons who had been in their current job for two or more years has risen from 60 per cent in 1989, to 70 per cent in 1992.



Manufacturing production in June

The publication *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary (8301.0)* contains up-to-date time series data on the production of twenty-seven major indicators of production (twenty-five seasonally adjusted). The indicator commodities have been selected to give a broad industry representation of the manufacturing sector and are part of a much larger range of commodity items published in the series of ten Manufacturing Production Bulletins.

In the table below, the 'previous year' column is a generally more reliable guide to trends, but should be read in conjunction with the more detailed data presented in the monthly publications, as production of manufacturing commodities can vary quite significantly on a month-to-month basis, even after seasonal adjustment.

MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION
JUNE 1992
Seasonally adjusted, percentage change

Product	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Petrol-rotary type lawn mowers	-27.5	66.7
Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron	3.7	21.7
Gas available for issue through mains	5.0	17.9
Blooms and slabs, from rolling and forging	8.8	17.5
Portland cement	10.0	17.0
Iron and steel in ingots or other primary forms	0.5	16.5
Electric motors	10.2	16.4
Cotton yarn	26.9	10.6
Clay bricks	13.3	7.1
Domestic clothes washing machines	-7.1	6.9
Electricity	1.0	6.5
Woven cotton fabric (including towelling)	-0.6	6.3
Sulphuric acid; oleum	2.0	5.5
Television sets	-2.3	5.2
Woven wool fabric (including blanketing)	-14.2	5.2
Textile floor coverings	5.8	-1.0
Domestic refrigerators	-14.6	-1.5
Cars and station wagons	6.2	-2.0
Cigarettes and tobacco	-1.7	-2.2
Woven man-made fibre fabric	-3.0	-2.4
Other confectionery	9.1	-4.0
Chocolate based confectionery	3.7	-5.1
Beer	1.4	-5.6
Motor vehicles for goods and materials	8.9	-12.9
Wool yarn	-5.5	-14.4

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

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FAX (06) 253 1404

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Vic. (03) 615 7000
Qld (07) 222 6351
WA (09) 323 5140
SA (08) 237 7100
Tas. (002) 20 5800
NT (089) 432 111

Overseas visitors in brief ...

The number of overseas visitor arrivals in May 1992 was 175,200, 9 per cent more than in May 1991 (161,400). The trend estimate for visitor arrivals is showing an upward movement for the last six months.

The major source countries were: Japan with 45,900 (26% of total), New Zealand with 40,700 (23%), the United States of America with 20,000 (11%) and the United Kingdom with 14,200 (8%). These four major source countries accounted for 69 per cent of all visitor arrivals. Visitors from Japan continue to increase, with 21 per cent more arriving compared with May 1991. Visitors from the United States of America also increased, by 19 per cent, while visitors from New Zealand and the United Kingdom decreased by 9 and 8 per cent respectively compared with May 1991.

Although smaller in number, visitors from Singapore (6,500), Germany (4,400), Hong Kong (3,900) and Taiwan (2,600) all increased significantly when compared with May 1991.

Source: *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia, May 1992* (3401.0).

All the week's releases: 22 to 28 July

General

Publications Advice, 24 July 1992 (1105.0; free — over the counter)
Publications Advice, 28 July 1992 (1105.0; free — over the counter)
Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) — Keyword Index to Occupation Definitions, 1991 (1229.0; \$25.00) — *new issue*
Statistics Weekly, 23 July 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)
Tasmanian Statistical Indicators, July 1992 (1303.6; \$9.50)

Demography

Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., May 1992 (3401.0; \$6.50)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Lease Finance, Aust., May 1992 (5644.0; \$6.00)

Labour statistics and prices

Import Price Index, Aust., May 1992 (6414.0; \$8.00)
Part-time, Casual and Temporary Employment, NSW, October 1991 (6247.1; \$14.00) — *new issue*
Womens Work, SA, July 1992 (6204.4; \$3.00)

Agriculture

Livestock Products, Aust., June 1992 (7215.0; \$7.50)
Value of Principal Agricultural Commodities Produced, Aust., 1991-92, Preliminary (7501.0; \$16.00)
Agricultural Industries, Financial Statistics, Aust., 1990-91 (7507.0; \$27.00)

Secondary industry and distribution

Manufacturing Production, Aust., June 1992, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, May 1992 (8357.0; \$8.00)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Clothing and Footwear, May 1992 (8358.0; \$10.50)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Food, Drink, Tobacco, Stock and Poultry Food, May 1992 (8359.0; \$10.50)

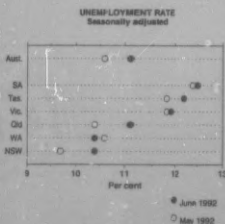
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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Rad Leovic
Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6104



Statistics Weekly
30 July 1992

Secondary industry and distribution — continued

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, May 1992 (8360.0; \$10.50)

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Plastics, Rubber, Paints, Detergents and Industrial Chemicals, May 1992 (8362.0; \$8.00)

Tourist Accommodation, NSW, March Qtr 1992 (8635.1; \$20.00)

Building Approvals, Vic., June 1992 (8731.2; \$10.50)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Qld, April 1992 (8741.3; \$10.50)

Transport

Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Aust., June 1992, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 11 August 1992

July

- 29** Consumer Price Index, June Quarter 1992 (6401.0; \$11.50)
- 30** Balance of Payments, Australia, June 1992 (5301.0; \$16.00)
- Building Approvals, Australia, June 1992 (8731.0; \$13.00)

August

- 6** The Labour Force, Australia, July 1992 Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)
- Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, May 1992 Preliminary (6301.0; \$10.50)
- 11** Retail Trade, Australia, June 1992 (8501.0; \$10.50)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to 28 July 1992

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 92)*	-33.1	-21.8	-18.4	-24.7	-1.5	5.7	n.a.	n.a.	-22.8
Retail turnover (May 92) (trend estimate)	6.6	4.7	9.4	0.1	10.1	5.0	n.p.	8.7	6.5
New motor vehicle registrations (June 92)†	40.8	0.6	16.0	3.8	11.2	24.0	19.9	28.8	20.0
Number of dwelling unit approvals (May 92)*	9.9	10.8	37.2	-11.5	40.6	-16.7	0.0	1.7	18.5
Value of total building work done (Mar. qtr 92)	-22.0	-15.8	9.3	-23.5	-14.6	26.9	-3.6	7.3	-13.3
Employed persons (June 92)*	-0.6	-0.4	1.3	-2.8	2.1	-2.2	-0.2	-1.0	-0.2
Capital city consumer price index (Mar. qtr 92)	1.2	2.1	1.7	2.6	0.9	2.1	2.1	2.6	1.7
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Feb. 92)	5.5	3.4	3.2	5.3	5.1	3.2	5.7	5.3	4.4
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Mar. qtr 92)	1.7	4.4	8.0	0.5	5.1	-0.7	14.6	2.4	4.0

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas, NT and ACT.

The latest ...

8

Key national indicators – consolidated to 28 July 1992

	Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
		Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production					
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices	\$m Mar. qtr 92	n.a.	64,762	0.6	0.8
Industrial activity					
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m Mar. qtr 92	4,944	5,565	-2.7	-21.3
— 1984-85 prices	" "	3,898	4,386	-2.3	-18.0
Expected new capital expenditure	" Three months to June 92	6,727	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover — current prices	" May 92	7,835	8,017	-0.3	6.7
— 1984-85 prices	" Mar. qtr 92	14,755	15,531	1.1	2.1
New motor vehicle registrations	" June 92	53,209	49,663	20.6	20.0
Dwelling unit approvals (f)	" May 92	13,883	13,307	-4.5	18.5
Value of all building approvals (f)	\$m "	1,933	1,702	-5.0	0.0
Value of total building work done — current prices	" Mar. qtr 92	5,278.8	5,739.3	-0.1	-13.3
— 1984-85 prices	" "	3,432.4	3,731.8	0.7	-10.8
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	" Mar. qtr 92	32,884	35,130	1.8	0.6
— 1984-85 prices	" "	22,814	24,284	1.1	-1.3
Expected manufacturers' sales	" Three months to June 92	35,070	n.a.	n.a.	-2.0
Labour					
Employed persons	'000 June 92	7,701.4	7,691.3	0.4	-0.2
Unemployment rate †	% "	10.6	11.1	0.6	1.7
Participation rate †	" "	62.9	63.2	0.6	0.1
Job vacancies	'000 May 92	24.3	24.8	-6.9	-3.4
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours "	1.09	1.10	-1.5	-1.7
Prices, profits and wages					
Consumer price index (e)	1989-90 = 100.0 Mar. qtr 92	107.6	n.a.	0.0	1.7
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0 May 92	122.4	n.a.	1.6	3.9
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0 May 92	112.3	n.a.	0.4	1.4
Company profits before income tax	\$m Mar. qtr 92	2,779	3,469	12.8	37.7
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$ Feb. 92	589.20	n.a.	1.8	4.4
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)					
90-day bank bills †	% per annum June 92	6.40	n.a.	-0.10	-4.10
10-year Treasury bonds †	" "	8.90	n.a.	-0.20	-2.25
Balance of payments					
Exports of merchandise (f)	\$m May 92	4,887	4,536	-4.5	0.5
Imports of merchandise (f)	" "	4,211	4,386	1.3	12.7
Balance on merchandise trade (c) (f)	" "	676	150	-64.6	-75.9
Balance of goods and services (c) (f)	" "	471	-39	n.a.	n.a.
Balance on current account (c) (f)	" "	-650	-1,131	-19.8	-20.3
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0 Mar. qtr 92	n.a.	100.5	2.8	0.7
Foreign investment					
Net foreign debt	\$m 31 Mar. 92	148,124	n.a.	2.4	7.6
Net foreign liabilities	" "	199,312	n.a.	3.4	10.9
Exchange rates (monthly average)					
US\$ (f)	per \$A May 92	0.7563	n.a.	-0.8	-2.4
Trade weighted index (f)	May 1970 = 100.0 "	57.1	n.a.	-1.9	-3.9
Other indicators					
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million Dec. 91	17.4	n.a.	0.3	1.4
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000 May 92	175	214	-2.1	6.5

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 29 July 1992. (f) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 30 July 1992.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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